

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL

REF: USNATO 3121

1. APPRECIATE BROAD FOLLOW-UP PROPOSED BY MISSION TO NAC
STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ
CANAL, C-M(75)12, REVISED.

2. IF HUMPHREY SUGGESTS THAT DRC DRAFT A DIRECTIVE FOR
APPROVAL BY DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION
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CALLING FOR PARTICULAR EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED

IN PARA 39 OF THE STUDY, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE DIRECTIVE SHOULD TASK MC FOR REVIEW OF MILITARY IMPLICATIONS, SINCE THEY INVOLVE BOTH OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND FORCE LEVELS.

3. 1975 DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW COULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DETAILS OF NATIONAL PLANS AS THEY RELATE TO PLANNED FORCE CAPABILITIES BEARING ON SURVEILLANCE AND PROTECTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AS CALLED FOR IN NATO FORCE GOALS. WE WOULD EXPECT MILITARY COMMITTEE TO COMMENT ON MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING PROBLEM IN ITS LATE FALL STATEMENT ON SUITABILITY AND RISK CONNECTED WITH

ACCEPTANCE OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS; DETAILS DEVELOPED IN THE DRC WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS CASE.

4. QUESTIONS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND OF INSTITUTION OF STANAVFORMED ARE BOTH IN HANDS OF SACEUR AND ARE BOTH SENSITIVE; HOWEVER, LOW-KEY MENTION BY MISSION IN DRC AS PER REFTEL DOES NOT SEEM INAPPROPRIATE. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SURVEILLANCE COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKING WELL.

5. MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PROVIDES SUITABLE LANGUAGE IN SUPPORT OF THE SURVEILLANCE FUNCTION IN PARAGRAPH 31 (A) WHICH DEALS WITH DETECTING AND MONITORING SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENTS AND CONCENTRATIONS AND IN PARAGRAPH 32 (B) WHICH DEALS WITH PROTECTION OF MARITIME LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS. HOWEVER, PRIORITY TO BE AFFORDED THESE IS TO BE RECOMMENDED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, IN LIGHT OF COMPETING CLAIMS.

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